

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for tracking telephone plan minute status, comprising:

initializing a first timer, having timer information, including a time block designation having time limits and a timer usage variable, associated therewith, wherein the time block designation comprises a predetermined period of time comprising a portion of a twenty-four hour period for which the telephone plan provides a finite number of minutes for making calls during a recurring period, the recurring period comprising at least one of the following: a calendar day, a calendar week, and a calendar month;

adding time used by a call to the timer usage variable when the call was made within the time block designation associated with the first timer; and

notifying a user of predefined timer information wherein the predefined timer information includes the time limits minus a value of the timer usage variable.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

initializing a second timer, having timer information, including a second time block designation and a second timer usage variable, associated therewith wherein the first timer usage variable and the second timer usage variable can accumulate time simultaneously.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined timer information includes the value associated with the timer usage variable.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Canceled).
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving from the user time block information to initialize a timer.
7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
setting each time block designation associated with each timer based on a
time block defined by a calling plan structure.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein each time block
designation associated with each timer comprises at least one beginning time and at least
one ending time.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein each time block
designation associated with each timer comprises at least one beginning date and at least
one beginning time and at least one ending date and at least one ending time.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
resetting the timer usage variable.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
resetting the timer usage variable periodically.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said notifying
further comprises:
sending an electronic message to the user.
13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said notifying
further comprises:
transmitting timer information on a computer network to the user.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said notifying further comprises:

receiving a user request for timer information through a voice mail system; and

transmitting timer information to the user through the voice mail system.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising: protecting the predefined timer information with a user password.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising: charging a fee to access the predefined timer information.

17. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented system for tracking telephone plan minute status, comprising:

means for initiating a timer, wherein the timer has information, including a time block designation having a time limit and a timer usage variable, associated therewith, wherein the time block designation comprises a predetermined period of time comprising a portion of a twenty-four hour period for which the telephone plan provides a finite number of minutes for making calls during a recurring period, the recurring period comprising at least one of the following: a calendar day, a calendar week, and a calendar month;

means for adding time used by a call to the timer usage variable when the call was made within the time block designation associated with the timer; and

means for notifying a user of predefined timer information wherein the predefined timer information includes the time limit minus a value of the timer usage variable.

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the predefined timer information includes the value of the timer usage variable.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 17, further comprising means for resetting the timer usage variable periodically.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 17, further comprising means for protecting information associated with the timer with a password.

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 17, further comprising:
a computer network in communication with the computer and configured for allowing the user to access the predefined timer information.

Claims 23-30 (Canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for causing a computer to perform a method for tracking telephone plan minute status, the method comprising:

initializing a first timer, having timer information, including a time block designation having time limits and a timer usage variable, associated therewith, wherein the time block designation comprises a predetermined period of time comprising a portion of a twenty-four hour period for which the telephone plan provides a finite number of minutes for making calls during a recurring period, the recurring period comprising at least one of the following: a calendar day, a calendar week, and a calendar month;

adding time used by a call to the timer usage variable when the call was made within the time block designation associated with the first timer; and

notifying a user of predefined timer information wherein the predefined timer information includes the time limits minus a value of the timer usage variable.

32. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises initializing a second timer, having timer information, including a second time block designation and a second timer usage

variable, associated therewith wherein the first timer usage variable and the second timer usage variable are enabled to accumulate time simultaneously.

33. (New) A method for tracking telephone plan minute status, comprising:
- initializing a first timer, having timer information, including a user-defined time block designation having time limits and a timer usage variable, associated therewith, the time limits comprising time values entered by a user in a user interface, the time values comprising beginning and ending times for the time block;
 - adding time used by a call to the timer usage variable when the call was made within the time block designation associated with the first timer; and
 - notifying a user of predefined timer information wherein the predefined timer information includes the time limits minus a value of the timer usage variable.